

## MCKENZIE IS PUT ON HOUSE GRILL

District Committee Quizzes Assistant as to His Part in Realty Dealings.

### OPERATOR GOES ON STAND

Allen E. Walker Is Called to Testify—Richards Officer of Building Association.

Continuing to pry into the business dealings and real estate transactions of members of the Board of Tax Assessors, the House District Committee continued its investigation of District affairs today.

Assessor Richards and Assistant Assessor McKenzie were on the stand laying bare every detail of their purchases of real estate, but the committee devoted most of its attention to Mr. McKenzie, having heard Mr. Richards' story from day to day for the past week.

### Building Association Officer.

Allen E. Walker, a real estate operator, was also a witness today. He was called to testify regarding the land held by Messrs. Richards, McKenzie, and Kalbfus at Twentieth and Belmont streets.

When Tax Assessor Richards resumed the stand the members of the committee abandoned the quest regarding his real estate holdings, and Chairman Johnson suddenly asked if the assessor was interested in any loan office.

"I am not," said Mr. Richards.

"Are you an officer in a building and loan association?"

Mr. Richards replied that he was vice president in the Columbia Association.

M. C. Hazen, District Surveyor, he said, was president, but much of the work falls on Floyd E. Davis, banker and real estate man.

"Do you make a specialty of getting business in certain localities?" asked Congressman George.

"No, the business depends entirely upon the applications."

"In making assessments on houses, do you take into consideration any loans the association may have made?"

"I have never thought of it," said the assessor.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the Columbia Association charged any fees in addition to the interest rate.

Mr. Richards said he would like to look into the matter, so he gave an accurate answer, and he was requested to produce later a list of the officers and stockholders of the company, and also a statement of its interest charges.

### Realty Broker On Stand.

Allen E. Walker, a real estate broker, was then called. He said he had represented the purchasers, Messrs. Richards, McKenzie, and Kalbfus, when the assessors acquired the property at Twentieth street and Belmont road.

Leonard N. Nicholson, the real estate office of William Corcoran Hill, testified Mr. Walker had first called his attention to the property, and he agreed to take it, believing it

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## Senator Asks Probe Of McAdoo's Charges

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He asked that they lie upon the table, intimating that he would deliver a speech on the subject.

## Two Rolling Mills of Powder Plant Explode

WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 5.—Rolling Mills No. 11 and 12 of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company blew up at 4:15 this morning, shaking the surrounding country for miles. Paul Penno, an employee of the company, had a narrow escape. He was standing near the powder in mills Nos. 6 and 7 and was on his way to Nos. 11 and 12 to do the same thing when they exploded. He was knocked to the ground, but was not seriously injured. A thousand pounds of powder went up in smoke.

## Russian Prince Dies In Cell of Starvation

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 5.—Prince Mamuroff, a member of one of the most aristocratic families in Russia and an intimate friend of the celebrated author, Prince Kropotkin, has been found dead of starvation in a cell of the monastery, Holy Trinity, where he lived as a monk for some years.

He had abandoned military life. Apparently his existence was forgotten by his brother monks for a fortnight.

### Will Oppose Suffrage.

BUFFALO, Aug. 5.—A national organization of Catholic women to oppose the suffrage movement has been launched by leaders in the German Catholic Central Verein, now convening in this city.

### Recesses Taken.

TRENTON, August 5.—For the second time this year the New Jersey Legislature met in special session shortly before noon today. Only to find all was not serene, and recesses were taken immediately by both House and Senate.

## Walter Johnson Day and Increased Prices

An Explanation of the Situation and of The Times' Protest Against Any Unfair Demands.

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## FIRE THREATENS MILITIA CAMP

Second Regiment's Bucket Work Makes Quick Work of Controlling Flames.

### DEMANDS MILITARY POLICE

Mayor of Harpers Ferry Sadly Peeved at the Flirtations Guardsmen.

Fire shortly before 2 o'clock this afternoon threatened to sweep Camp Ordway, where the District National Guard is encamped near Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Only quick work on the part of the Second Regiment prevented the flames from spreading through the tents. The fire was in heaps of dry brush and refuse on the hillside directly back of the tents. The regiment formed a double-line bucket brigade and passed water from the well a hundred yards away, and in fifteen minutes had the flames under control.

By CARL D. GROAT.

CAMP ORDWAY, Near Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Aug. 5.—Mayor Keller, of Bolivar, W. Va., one mile from here, threatened this afternoon to appeal to the governor of the State for protection for his town, unless the officers of the District National Guard take immediate steps to keep the militiamen quiet hereafter.

Sheltered by an enormous umbrella, attired in his blue work shirt, and minus his collar, the irate mayor visited camp today and entered a protest with officers of the guard against what he termed a serious disturbance in the peaceful environs of Bolivar last night.

Peeved By Flirtations.

The guardsmen, he said, yelled as they passed through the main streets.

Moreover, they flirted with Bolivar's fair maidens. This last act occasioned the most of the mayor's wrath.

He admitted that Bolivar's police force of one was unable to cope with the situation. He besought the officers of the guard to prevent a repetition of last night's flirtations, and then, receiving only slight satisfaction, threatened to appeal to the governor.

Harpers Ferry, too, is boiling today with discussion of last night's events, but General Harries maintained that the town ought to spend its own money for police, rather than to call on the District National Guard for a provost guard.

Mayor Wentzell did not carry out his expressed intention of asking for such protection, and it would have done him no good if he had. Similar requests from the overwrought residents of the Ferry in other years have met with flat refusal to interfere.

### First Mail Arrives.

The Guardsmen today received their first mail from home, and there was a wild scramble for the messages as soon as the carrier had dumped his two bags at camp.

Tonight there will be another parade on the camp grounds and a concert by the regimental band.

Thirteen hundred guardsmen piled out of their tents today in a half frozen condition. The breeze from the Blue Ridge mountains during the night was colder than early winter in Washington, and with the blanket supply short, the guardsmen put in a bad night. Normal summer weather returned during the morning, however, and the guardsmen and officers' school did their work in a scorching heat tempered only by a slight breeze.

The men of Company C were thrown into a temporary panic early today when they found that their entire cook squad had deserted overnight. While visions of hunger confronted the men, officers hurriedly sent for the deserters, and in getting members of the company to take the places of the deserters, then an officer went to the ferry, hoping to catch the civilian cooks, take away their Government transportation, and bring back to camp the Government shoes which disappeared when the men did.

Doctors at the field infirmary camp and the hospital corps had a busy morning patching up blistered feet, attending to minor cuts and injuries and administering simple remedies for all stomachs.

The Hospital Corps today is "leary" of the lanterns, for last night it was discovered in the nick of time that they had been filled with gasoline instead of kerosene. Dr. Hudson's discovery of this fact probably prevented a series of explosions.

### Rain Cools Militiamen.

A driving rainstorm threatened to ruin the first day's stay of the guardsmen in Camp Ordway. It was of short duration, however, and evening came on cool and pleasant. This was a boon for the guardsmen, who had put in the most strenuous day in months in pitching tents and making camp ready for the business before them.

The storm rather marred the success of the flag-raising, which marked the opening of the camp, but the Second Infantry Band played "The Star-Spangled Banner" despite the down-pour, and officers and men ceased work during the ceremony.

Every guardsman turned in last night.

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## MAJ. RAY OPENS BATTLE IN COURT

Army Officer Seeks to Force His Promotion to Deputy Quartermaster General.

### IMPORTANT ISSUE RAISED

Constitutionality of Seniority Law Passed in 1890 Is Involved in Case.

A fight to force the promotion of Major Beecher B. Ray, U. S. A., by legal means, began in the Supreme Court of the District today, and almost instantly developed a constitutional question of the utmost importance, according to statements in court, to the whole United States army and navy. The question is whether the law of Congress passed October 1, 1890, ordering promotions by seniority, is constitutional.

Major Ray's personal character, much debated in Congressional committee when he was nominated for promotion by President Taft, did not come up in court today.

### Principals Not In Court.

Neither the plaintiff, who is on duty in Chicago, nor the defendants, who are Secretary of War Garrison and Assistant Secretary of War Breckinridge, were in court when Justice Harnard began consideration of the case. Reginald Hildekoper, assistant United States attorney, began argument for the Government, and Stephen A. Day, of Chicago, followed for Major Ray.

"This is a bill," began Mr. Hildekoper, "to enjoin the Secretary of War and the Assistant Secretary of War from certifying to the President the name of any other than the plaintiff for promotion to the position of deputy quartermaster general, with the rank of colonel. The bill is really aimed at the President of the United States, and it asks the court to compel the President to nominate the plaintiff for this position."

Should the relief sought for be granted, no one could come into this court and nullify all the business of government by restraining communications between the President and heads of departments. It is sought to have this court give an order, to direct an action which it has no power to compel. It is not the apparent purpose of the bill to prevent the President from sending (Continued on Fourth Page.)

## EXPRESS RATE CUT AIDS WASHINGTON

City Gets Benefit of All on Interstate Charges—Companies Silent.

Washington gets more direct benefit from the proposed reduction of express rates than any other city. This benefit is derived from all rates from Washington are interstate rates. Many of the short distance rates from other big cities, such as Baltimore, for instance are interstate rates, but those applying from Washington to other points are not.

Consequently the reduction does not apply from Baltimore to Hagerstown, Hagerstown, likewise it does not apply from Alexandria to Richmond or Norfolk, but does apply from Washington to either of these points.

Express company men in Washington are not disposed to dispute the new rates for publication until the company attitude is well defined.

The Interstate Commerce Commission can fix rates on intra-state shipments in cases where such a shipment crosses the State border and where they are both in Maryland, because the principal transportation lines from Baltimore to Cumberland are a part of West Virginia en route.

### Automobiles in Crash On the Speedway

Mrs. John Keady, of 2407 M street Northwest, was seriously injured in an automobile accident, occurring at Seventeenth and D streets northwest.

Miss Anna Keady, her daughter, suffered less severe injuries. John Dunbar, colored, the driver of the car, was hurt also and was conveyed to the Emergency Hospital, suffering, it is believed, from internal injuries.

Duncan, it was reported, was instructing Miss Keady in driving the car when the accident occurred.

Miss Keady's car, a 1912 Buick, was driven by George H. Beall, an employee of the Crawford Towing Company. Beall was not injured and drove Duncan to the hospital.

It is believed, from internal injuries, Duncan, it was reported, was instructing Miss Keady in driving the car when the accident occurred.

Miss Keady's car, a 1912 Buick, was driven by George H. Beall, an employee of the Crawford Towing Company. Beall was not injured and drove Duncan to the hospital.

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## Marriage Surprises Congregation



MRS. GEORGE A. MILLER, Who As Miss Emma Ruth Roy, Was Wedded and Won By Pastor Wilcox. She Was Leading Soprano in Choir.

## Playful Kitten Is Adopted As Mascot By White House Force

The White House has a mascot. It appeared on the scene today in the form of a playful kitten, which strolled into the Executive Offices, and, without more ado, made himself at home. He was christened at once Woodrow, in honor of the President.

Woodrow, he it whispered, carries the mark of Tammany, for there are unmistakable stripes on his forehead. On the whole, however, he is mostly white. During the morning he was very approachable and spent much of his time frisking about the main corridor leading to the Executive Offices. He refused, however, to be interviewed.

## CAPITAL CLERGYMAN CLAIMS YOUNG BRIDE

Christian Church Pastor, 51, Weds Twenty-Year-Old Member of His Choir.

Somewhat of a surprise was sprung on the congregation of the Ninth Street Christian Church, when the Rev. George A. Miller, pastor of the church, took as his wife late yesterday afternoon Miss Emma Ruth Roy, twenty years old, the daughter of Mrs. Emma V. Roy, of 418 Tenth street northeast, and leading soprano in the church choir. The bridegroom was a widower, and is fifty-one years old.

Immediately after the wedding ceremony the couple departed on their honeymoon tour to the Thousand Islands, Montreal, and Lake George.

The Rev. Mr. Miller has been pastor of the Ninth Street Christian Church for six years. His bride was a fourteen-year-old member of the congregation when he came to the church. It was not until last winter that Capt. Roy drove his arrow at the rector. Early this year the Rev. Mr. Miller bought an automobile, and the slight of Miss Roy riding with him has been a familiar one with the congregation.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. Earl Wilcox, of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church. Only the bride's relatives and the Rev. Mr. Miller's housekeeper, Mrs. Frank Briggs, were present.

At about 6 o'clock this morning a pastor saw smoke coming from the basement of the church.

A watchman, running in answer to his call, saw the smoke turn to flames and spread with appalling rapidity.

The watchman fired his pistol four times—all the cartridges he had—and then with the porter ran into the hotel lobby.

"Fire!" they yelled, and clerks and waiters and bellboys getting into their clothes for the day's work.

The blaze was coming from a room near the elevator shaft, and as the waiters darted up the steps they raced with flames that leaped up the shaft behind them.

There were 175 guests sleeping on the second, third, and fourth floors. The pistol shots had awakened some, but the large majority of them slept on, not knowing the danger.

Pounded on Doors.

Waiters and bell boys pounded on each door.

"Don't try the front stairs—the back stair is the place, or the fire escapes." The hurrying messengers of danger cried out as they went from door to door.

They were having a rather close race with the fire. From the elevator shaft

it spread down each floor. The front stairs soon were wiped out.

A half hour later the hotel was a mass of smoldering ruins.

Knights of Columbus Welcomed to Boston

BOSTON, Aug. 5.—Calling upon at Knights of Columbus to follow the teachings of Pope Pius X and President Wilson to save society from disruption and pointing out the great dangers that are imminent in the world, Bishop Anderson, in the name of the Boston archdiocese and Cardinal O'Connell today extended a cordial welcome to delegates from all parts of North America to the thirty-first national convention of the Catholic organization assembled in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Nearly 25,000 visitors are in the city today to attend the convention, which closes Thursday. A sail down the harbor to Nantasket followed the formal opening of the convention.

Reach an Agreement.

An agreement to begin consideration next Friday in the House of the bill of Congressman Raker of California to provide a new water supply for the city of San Francisco from the Hetch Hetchy valley was made today in the House by all party leaders.

## WASHINGTON GUESTS DRIVEN FROM BLUE RIDGE HOTEL BY FIRE

Two Hundred Forced to Flee in Scanty Attire When Flames Sweep Blue Mountain House. Many Narrowly Escape—Two Persons Are Badly Burned—Visitors Lose Valuables.

## JEWELRY AND CLOTHING WORTH \$100,000 DESTROYED; HOTEL LOSS IS \$200,000

BLUE MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Pa., Aug. 5.—Fire that started in the basement of the Blue Mountain House, a noted summer resort accommodating about 200 guests largely from Washington and Baltimore, destroyed the building shortly after 6 o'clock this morning. Two persons were injured.

B. E. Metzger and Malcolm Frank, both of Norfolk, Va., were badly burned about the face and hands and were taken to Waynesboro, Pa., to a hospital.

In the hotel when the flames were discovered in a porter's room, were about 200 guests, and fifty employees. The flames soon spread to the elevator shaft. Fire escapes prevented loss of life. Most of the guests rushed to safety in their night clothes, losing all their effects.

The loss of clothing and jewelry is estimated at \$100,000. Mrs. Caples, wife of C. A. Caples, of the Western Maryland freight department, lost \$2,000 worth of jewelry. The loss to the building is estimated at \$200,000.

The hotel was managed by Bond & Gibson, and is owned by a company of Baltimoreans. It was built about twenty years ago.

The officials of the Western Maryland railroad sent a special train carrying clothing and physicians, which reached here early, but not before nearly 100 of the refugees had boarded the Blue Mountain express and left for Baltimore. Few of them were clad, many were wrapped in blankets and sheets.

The fire started in a room used by the porters at 5:50 a. m., in the middle of the building. A gas jet had been left burning, and it is supposed the wind blew a curtain against the flame.

As soon as the fire was discovered the hotel force manned the fire fighting apparatus and turned a stream upon the flames, but on account of the highly inflammable character of the building the flames had gained such headway that the efforts to quench it proved futile.

Many of the guests joined the fire-fighting brigade and rendered valuable assistance. Henry A. McComas, president of the Blue Mountain House Company, who has a summer home at Blue Ridge Summit, was notified early of the fire and hastened to the scene and personally directed the work of the brigade and looked after the comfort of the guests.

### FIRE DISCOVERED BY A PORTER.

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